

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9782
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: STRAUSS BUGGING AFFAIR CAUSES STIR IN BAVARIA

REF: A) MUNICH 375, B) BONN 984

1. INTRO AND SUMMARY. BONN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN
BOELLING'S HINT THAT BAVARIAN STATE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CHECK
TO SEE WHETHER BAVARIAN OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF
THE CONSTITUTION (LFV) MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE
BUGGING OF CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS HAS CAUSED A MINOR STIR
IN BAVARIA. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT STRAUSS WAS
NOT REPEAT NOT BUGGED BY BAVARIAN LFV; HE WAS NOT
REPEAT NOT INFORMED THAT HE AND HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATES WERE
UNDER LFV OR OTHER SURVEILLANCE IN 1976; AND PRESENT
BAVARIAN MIN INTERIOR HAS NO REPEAT NOT RECORDS OF
THIS ALLEGED SURVEILLANCE. END SUMMARY.

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2. FORMER BAVARIAN MIN INTERIOR MERK CONFIRMED (IN
JANUARY 18 INTERVIEW WITH AUGSBURGER ALLGEMEINE) GOVERN-
MENT SPOKESMAN BOELLING'S REFERENCE TO EFFORT BY BAVARIAN
LFV IN 1976 TO CONDUCT SURVEILLANCE OF STRAUSS AND HIS
CLOSE CSU ASSOCIATES (UMGEBUNG). MERK SAID HE CONSIDERED
BND INVOLVEMENT IN BUGGING OF STRAUSS HIGHLY UNLIKELY.

HE SUGGESTED THAT "FOREIGN ESPIONAGE RINGS" MIGHT HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE BUGGING. BEGIN COMMENT: MERK'S TERMINOLOGY AND THE TENOR OF THE INTERVIEW CLEARLY SUGGESTS HE HAD EASTERN SERVICE(S) IN MIND. END COMMENT.

3. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION OF STRAUSS BUGGING AT CLOSED CAUCUS OF CSU DEPUTIES IN BAVARIAN LANDTAG JANUARY 18, CSU SEC GEN TANDLER ASKED PRESENT BAVARIAN MIN INTERIOR SEIDL TWO QUESTIONS. TANDLER FIRST ASKED SEIDL HOW HIS PREDECESSOR MERK COULD TELL JOURNALISTS THERE HAD BEEN SURVEILLANCE OF STRAUSS (IN 1976) WHILE HE (SEIDL) HAD TOLD CSU DEPUTIES THERE HAD BEEN NO REPEAT NO SURVEILLANCE. SEIDL REPLIED THAT AN EXAMINATION OF RELEVANT MIN INTERIOR FILES SHOULD NO REPEAT NO SURVEILLANCE.

4. TANDLER THEN ASKED WHETHER SEIDL CONSIDERED IT PROPER THAT MERK HAD INFORMED NEITHER STRAUSS NOR THE CSU SEC GEN (I.E. TANDLER HIMSELF) OF THE ALLEGED EFFORTS OF WESTERN REPEAT WESTERN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE CSU AND/OR ITS CHAIRMAN STRAUSS WAS THE SUBJECT OF EASTERN ESPIONAGE. (N.B. THE GERMAN HERE READS " . . . DIE CSU BEZIEHUNGSWEISE IHREN VORSITZENDEN 'ABZUKLAEREN'.") SEIDL RESPONDED THAT IN HIS VIEW, THE CSU CHAIRMAN AND SEC GEN SHOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THIS ALLEGED DANGER OF (FOREIGN) INFILTRATION.
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5. COMMENT. CONGEN IS PUZZLED BY TANDLER'S REFERENCE TO ALLEGED EFFORTS BY A "WESTERN" INTELLIGENCE SERVICE TO DETERMINE WHETHER STRAUSS WAS THE SUBJECT OF EASTERN ESPIONAGE. MERK AND STRAUSS ARE BITTER POLITICAL ENEMIES. TANDLER HAS CLEARLY SEIZED UPON THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUGGEST THAT MERK HAD NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN LOYAL TO HIS PARTY AND ITS CHAIRMAN. BETTS

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